

UP-TO-DATE METHODS OF HANDLING THE CORN CROP

HERE is no branch of agricultural activity in the United States where the past few years has witnessed greater improvement in methods of cultivation and harvesting than in the sphere of corn growing. This is as it should be for corn is easily one of our most important crops. Indeed, although the fact is not generally recognized, it is a greater wealth producer—considered in the broad sense—than is the wheat crop.

Whereas progressive farmers have in many instances worked out their own salvation as regards the improved methods of corn cultivation, it is perhaps only fair to give the major portion of the credit to the United States department of agriculture, which has worked in co-operation with the State Agricultural colleges and experiment stations to bring about a better understanding of the requirements of the corn crop. Many an old-fashioned farmer has been wont to assume that every tiller of the soil knew from his boyhood apprenticeship on the farm all that there is to know about growing corn and yet the experts of the agriculture department found that in reality there

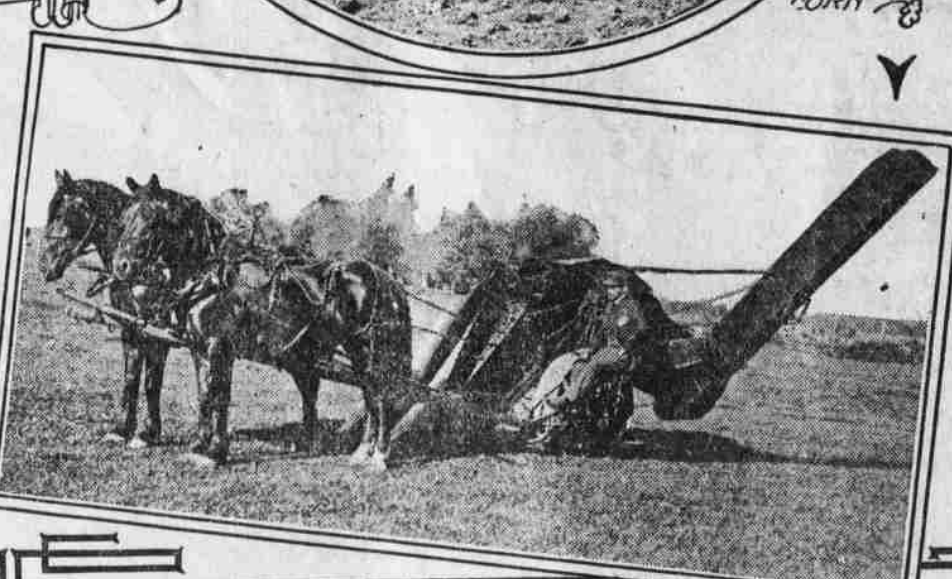


MODERN CORN HARVESTER

PLANTING CORN



A FAMILIAR SCENE IN THE "CORN BELT"



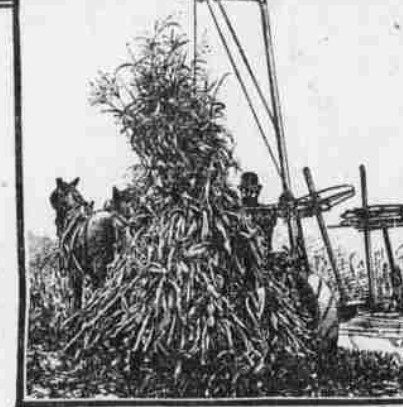
A MODERN CORN HARVESTER

was more widespread misconception regarding the needs of corn than about any other leading farm commodity.

For the purpose of putting our farmers on the right track in their corn growing Uncle Sam during the past few years had field agents or demonstrators traveling about the country all the while to give advice and assistance to the corn growers who do not appear to be doing the thing the best way. At first there was a disposition to regard with distrust if not with suspicion the advice of these "book farmers," but gradually as they proved that they could double and triple corn yields with scarcely a cent of extra expense, they won over to their side a considerable portion of the farming community and this "missionary work" is now being extended until in time it will embrace the "corn belt" where strange as it may seem the farmers are not getting nearly all that they should out of the land—that is if you let these government sharps tell it.

The first boost that was given to the American corn crop came through improvement by seed selection. The experts have induced the farmers to select their seed corn with great care in the field instead of merely making use of what happens to remain in the crib at planting time and the improvement from this cause alone has approximated, at least twenty per cent. Most of the progressive corn growers have also awakened to the wisdom of properly preserving seed corn by keeping it dry during the winter in a special seed house instead of merely entrusting it to the corn crib in the old haphazard way. It has now come to the pass where the best quality of corn is worth \$25 per bushel more for seed purposes than unselected corn.

A second effective method of improving our corn crop has as its purpose the improvement of the condition of the soil in accordance with the studied requirements of corn cultivation. Modern science is teaching the farmer that it simply will not pay to attempt corn growing on poor land until it is brought into a fertile condition by the growing and plowing under of



MODERN CORN SHOCKER

leguminous crops, the application of manure, etc. In not a few instances corn farms have been rendered more profitable by rearranging the fields in order to make them more uniform as regards moisture and soil fertility. Soil washing, that is, the washing away of the surface soil—one of the buggars of corn growing—is being prevented by systematic means such as were almost unheard of a few years ago.

The big problem of fertilizers is one which touches the very heart of the corn-growing industry and the experts in and out of the government service have prepared very explicit directions for enabling the corn grower to add to his soil nitrogen or whatever other ingredients are most needed to produce the longed-for prize ears of corn. It has been found upon investigation that many farmers have had very different ideas as to how corn should be planted and cultivated but at the same time it has been discovered that no hard and fast rules can be laid down as applicable to the whole country. The corn grower who is cultivating a deep soil in a section where there is prolonged dry weather will obviously have to proceed on a different theory from the man whose land is low and wet. The point that is being driven home is that each farmer must study his own particular needs.

An odd circumstance in connection with this phase of the crusade for better methods of handling the corn crop was the discovery by Uncle Sam's investigators that corn growers as a class are very conservative, altogether too conservative, indeed, for their own good. The implements and methods employed in Iowa are entirely different from those of Connecticut and the latter, in turn, are dissimilar to those in use in Georgia. No section has a monopoly of all the good things in methods and machinery and in many instances a practice in vogue in one locality could be profitably ignored in another district which had remained in ignorance of it. All this bids fair to be changed, however, under the present awakening.

Wide-awake corn growers are having visits to other corn-producing states than their own and the result is likely to be a general discarding of poor and adopting of improved methods.

The depth of planting, the distances between rows and hills and the depth and frequency of cultivation are all corn problems that are being solved along dependable scientific lines after a century or more of discussion and dispute. Meanwhile the improvement of corn cultivating and harvesting machinery has worked wonders in bringing about the new era in the corn fields. Mechanical corn harvesters have developed more slowly than the machines for wheat and other cereals, attempts to solve the problem of mechanically handling the corn crop dating from 1820, whereas it was not until 1831 that Cyrus McCormick made the first reaping machine.

Despite the fact that there was almost continuous experiment in the sphere of corn harvesting machinery from the date above mentioned it was not until 1892 that success crowned the efforts of the inventors. The principle in corn harvesters and binders which was destined to prevail appeared in the year mentioned, the invention of an Illinois man. In its elementary form it consisted of a corn harvester with the two dividers passing, one on each side of a row of corn, which was cut and carried back

in a vertical position to the binder attachment by means of chains and gathering arms. Later various improvements and modifications of the design have been made and new inventions along the same line have been introduced. In some of the machines the binder is in almost horizontal position instead of vertical.

Naturally, badly tangled fields make the progress of a corn harvester somewhat slow, but it is remarkable with what precision the machine will right the stalks. Owing to the great variation in the height of the corn, even in the same field, the binding attachments are given great range of operation and in some machines they are placed as high as 22 inches. The machines weigh from 1,400 to 1,800 pounds each and cost, on an average, \$125. The average number of acres cut per day by such a corn binder is upward of eight and the total cost per acre of harvesting the corn by this method (allowing for cost of machine, wages of driver, outlay for twine, etc.) averages about \$1.50. Corn shockers cost about as much as corn binders and weigh approximately the same. These are the ideal machines for owners of small farms who do most of their own work. A man with three horses and a corn shocker can cut about five acres of corn per day at a total expense of \$1.06 per acre as against \$1.50 per acre with the machine previously described.

The fundamental features of the corn shocker are the circular rotating cutters which cut the corn as the machine advances and the circular rotating table upon which the corn is collected vertically to form a shock. A loading device for handling the shocks adds greatly to the efficiency of the modern improved type of machines. Corn pickers, machines which remove the ears from the stalks (which latter are left in the field) cost \$250 each and are operated at an expense of \$1.51 per acre. Combined huskers and shredders are the latest additions to corn handling machinery and on up-to-date farms these are in many instances operated by gasoline engines.

PRESENTS TOTAL A MILLION

Many Costly Gifts Are Lavished on Denver Bride of New York Society Man.

Denver, Colo.—Florence Sheedy, youngest daughter of Dennis Sheedy, millionaire mine owner and merchant of Denver, recently became the bride of I. Townsend Burden, of New York. No wedding in Denver in years has attracted as much attention as this ceremony. The bride's gifts, which came from all over the world, aggregate in value \$1,000,000.

Glittering baubles by hundreds lay on tables in the drawing room of the Sheedy mansion. Outside a force of Pinkerton detectives kept watch. In the rooms of the big house, mingled



MISS FLORENCE SHEEDY

with the guests, were more detectives and men from a safety vault company in New York, who were to transport the gifts to Manhattan. Following is a partial list of the gifts:

- Pair tortoise shell opera glasses, studded with diamonds, \$5,000.
- Onyx clock and candlesticks trimmed with solid gold, \$1,500.
- Solid gold inkstand with diamond clasp, \$2,500.
- Complete silver table service from the L. T. Burdens, \$35,000.
- Two dozen butter plates, \$200.
- Four solid gold candlesticks, \$500.
- Two solid gold candelabra, \$350.
- Solid gold after-dinner coffee set, \$500.
- Silver salad bowl, \$100.
- Two solid silver compoters, \$500.
- Check from Dennis Sheedy, \$100,000.
- String of pearls from mother and father of bride, \$50,000.
- Foreign touring car from father of bride, \$10,000.
- Two dozen Dresden plates, \$500.
- Silver tea service, \$500.
- Silver tray, \$250.

PIGEON CAMERA THE LATEST

Instrument Attached to Breast of the Bird Takes Pictures While Later in Flight.

Berlin.—The pigeon camera is the latest. Dr. Neubronner is a German specialist who has a sanitarium a few miles from his home. Several months ago he obtained a number of carrier pigeons by the use of which he was able to carry on communications between the house and the office. With the coming of the warm weather some of his messengers "played hooky," the messages were undelivered, and, try as hard as he would, the doctor was unable to find out where the birds passed their idle moments.

Then he invented a small and delicate photographic apparatus which he



The Pigeon Camera.

MIKE HAD A KICK COMING

And Typically Milesian Was Plan He Had Evolved to Put Things Straight.

For sixteen years Mike Flynn had cleaned out the town hall after shows, lectures, political meetings, decoration day exercises and other doings, and never a complaint did he make. Recently, however, he fancied he had a kick coming, and he went into the mayor's office to register it. "What is it, Mike?" asked the mayor. "It's about the hall, yer honor. The byes stand up in the rear, they do, an' they chew an' spit durin' the intire performance. An' not a wurrud would Ol say, yer honor, if they would spit out on the flure where Ol could git at it, but—the varmints—they would spit all over the legs of the chairs in the the back row, an' on the places where the chairs do be fastened to the flure, an' hard work it is fer a man of me age to stoop down an' scrub it off. There's a favor Ol would be askin' of yer honor this mornin' in respit to it." "What is that, Mike?" "Indade, Ol would ask yer honor fer permission and authority to do away with the back row of seats intirely. Nobody likes to sit in the back row anyway, yer honor, an' sinceless it is to have one in the hall at all."—Kansas City Star.



ITS STRONG POINT.

De Auber.—Yes, I've just finished that painting. Do you like the perspective?

Orville Blunt.—Yes, it's great. The further away you stand from it the better it looks!

Rifle for Under Water Action.

When he is working in water instead of on shore and other sea monsters likely to do him harm, the diver has at present to rely for his safety on the use of a knife, or, failing that, on a quick return to the surface. Now comes the invention of Captain Grobl, a German diving instructor, who has constructed a rifle which can be fired under water, and is designed for the better arming of a diver. The most remarkable thing about this is that it fires, not bullets, but water, which is propelled with such force that it has an extraordinary power of penetration.

Indeed, the inventor himself has pierced armor plate of medium thickness with the water jet from his weapon. The rifle has a stout barrel and is loaded with a cartridge cased in india rubber.

Another Pressing Need.

It's well enough to devote a lot of time and a good deal of prize money to the composition of a National anthem, but what's the matter with giving us a National wedding march, too?

Must we be forever indebted to the marches of an erratic Bavarian and a visionary Deutscher?

Here's an opportunity for ambitious native composers.

Think of the pride that would follow such an announcement as this: "The happy couple passed down the aisle to the pulsating strains of Boll-war, P. Gibson's exquisite 'Marche Nuptiale!'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Thinnest Man Weeds.

The thinnest man in the world was married recently by Municipal Judge John R. Newcomer at the city hall.

"I had to look three times to see him," said the judge.

The man is Arthur Atherton, twenty-four years old. Though five feet high, he weighs only thirty-eight pounds. He married Blanche Buckley, nineteen years old, who weighs 136 pounds.—Chicago Daily News.

Quarters and Halves.

George Adie, at the recent Lamb's Gambol in New York, objected to the extravagance of the modern wife.

"It is true that the married men of today," he ended, "have better halves, but bachelors have better quarters."

Lots of people who are thoroughly convinced that we shall know each other in heaven succeed admirably in forgetting each other here.

A Triumph Of Cookery—

Post Toasties

Many delicious dishes have been made from Indian Corn by the skill and ingenuity of the expert cook.

But none of these creations excels Post Toasties in tempting the palate.

"Post Toasties" are a luxury that make a delightful hot-weather economy.

The first package tells its own story.

"The Memory Lingers"

Sold by Grocers

POSTUM CEREAL CO., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich., U. S. A.

Nervousness—A Lack of Control

How often we meet women who complain of being nervous. What they really mean is that they have not control of their nerves, but let them run away. A woman may be of a nervous temperament and yet have such good control of her nerves that she never complains of being nervous.

This lack of nerve control manifests itself in various ways. Sometimes it is only a tendency to cry at trivial things or an inclination to despondency—to have "the blues," or to worry over real or fancied slights. Many women waste so much time thinking over things that are past and gone. A visit with a friend loses its joy in the afterthought, for this victim of the nerves lives over again every moment of the visit. She recalls everything that has been said and wonders if a different meaning was meant. Things that were said as a joke and originally taken that way are now brought up for criticism and pondered over until the woman convinces herself of the presence of a hidden meaning. She is not satisfied until she has bent and

shaped the original thoughtless sentence into an ugly sting.

These nervous women are the ones who are continually tormented with the demon of jealousy. If one of them should suddenly meet her husband on the street walking with another woman, what a curtain lecture he receives that evening; or if not that, he finds his wife wearing the air of one who considers herself much abused. The real facts of the case may be that her husband met the other woman quite accidentally and, as they were going in the same direction, he could not avoid walking with her without being positively rude. In this age men must of necessity have business transactions with women. It is a common occurrence for two men to lunch together in order to have a chance to talk over some important business matter without fear of interruption. There is no reason why a man and woman might not do the same, and yet how impossible it would be to convince the jealous woman that this was the case. To be jealous is

to acknowledge the superior charms of the other woman. "If I cannot hold you against all women, then I do not want you," is the right thought. If you think some other woman is attracting your husband, wake up and beat her at her own game. Do not sit idly in the corner and complain.

A woman who is nervous does not usually realize what is the cause of her condition. When excitable and irritable and suffering from a nervous headache, she takes various remedies to lessen the symptoms instead of looking the matter squarely in the face and going after the cause. Many women need a hobby to take up their spare time. If their minds were occupied and their bodies kept in a good condition by proper care, they would soon gain control of their nerves. (Copyright, 1920, by W. G. Chapman.)

Accepted at Last.

Poet—My eye on the coming coronation has been taken.

Wife—Oh, darling, I'm so glad! Who's taken it?

Poet—Mary took it this morning to light the study fire with—London Opinion.

To Raize Old Paris Fortress

Fortifications Now Useless—Undesirable Persons Rent Space From Government and Attack Pedestrians.

There is talk, as there has been talk for years, of leveling the fortifications of Paris, which are perfectly useless now in the improved conditions of modern warfare, and of building houses on the large tract of ground which would be set free right round Paris. At present the fortifications are not only useless as a protection to the city in time of war, but they are absolutely dangerous to the citizens in time of peace. According to the law a large space around the fortifications is kept free of all stone buildings. This military zone, as it is called, has no houses upon it, but little one-story huts are allowed to be built there and are rented at tiny rentals by the military authorities. Their cheapness and discomfort attract undesirable tenants, and the Paris apache has for years made a hunting ground of the fortifications. Only a few days ago a rich Rus-

sian, M. Ivanoff, had gone for a drive in a taxicab. The motor broke down near the fortifications, and while it was being put right M. Ivanoff went for a stroll. He was not more than a couple of hundred yards away from his cab when two men and two women attacked him, stabbed him in seven places, robbed him of all his money and his watch and chain and a valuable scarf, and left him for dead. The two women have been arrested, but their companions are still at large. The incident is being used as another argument for the leveling of the fortifications. Another argument still is, of course, the great value of the land for building purposes.

A Suggestion.

"If the sea had a milky way as well as the sky wouldn't it be convenient for the sailors?"

"In what way?"

"They could have floating dairies when their boats skimmed the waves."

Above the Law.

A magistrate rules that man is the boss in the home and will back him up with the law. Nevertheless, if the woman decides that she is boss she is going to be the boss, law or no law. —New York Herald.

One Advantage.

First Hobo—There are some advantages about our life.

Second Hobo—That's true; nobody can accuse us of being connected with the bathtub trust.

What They Wear at Eton

Seemingly There Are New Fads at the Great English School This Season.

Fashion at Eton this term is said to be just a little more pronounced than usual, writes a London correspondent. The creed of clothes is more strict than you will find it at Ascot. The topper, for example, must be rumpled hard and well back upon the head.

In the small boy the brim must not only touch the ears, but bend over them.

Among the avails of the sixth form it is permissible for the black swallowtail coat to be ornamented with a narrow stripe, almost but not quite invisible.

A white soft-fronted shirt is the right thing, with its harmonious accompaniment of high collar and white

butterfly bow. Add to this a fancy waistcoat, light blue for choice, and a small but penetrating buttonhole, trousers creased to a razor edge, socks of electric green ribbed silk, and patent leather shoes, and you have the upper school before you.

To Study Upper Air.

The Deutsche Zeitschrift für Luftschiffahrt announces that an aerological expedition will shortly be sent from Germany to China. A base sta-

tion is to be established at Peking, where for a year daily observations of the upper air will be made with kites and pilot balloons. The most interesting fact, however, in connection with this undertaking is that two free manned balloons are to be used whenever favorable weather prevails, making ascents from Peking. Although their principal work will be meteorological, it is expected that much important geographical and ethnographical information will be collected by the aeronauts.